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PALEOBOTANY.

Elements of Paleobotany.¹—The somewhat remarkable developments in the science of fossil plants which have taken place during the last decade receive renewed expression in the issue of an important work from the pen of R. Zeiller, already so well known to paleontologists for his extensive and admirable work on the fossil flora of France. In his *Éléments de Paléobotanique* M. Zeiller deals with fossil plants from the standpoint of the botanist conformably to modern views of botanical science. Though not so ambitious a work as Seward's *Fossil Plants*, the present work follows on similar lines with respect to general treatment of the subject, but treats of somewhat different types, thereby supplementing the former in important respects. It discusses

1. The mode of preservation of fossil plants.
2. Classification and nomenclature.
3. A systematic treatment of the various groups of plants, commencing with the Thallophytes.
4. The succession of floras and their relation to climatic conditions.
5. General considerations bearing upon the evolution of plant forms as indicated by the evidence of fossil plants.

Probably the most striking feature of the book is the recognition which it gives to Pontonié's Cycadofilices, a group of plants now definitely recognized as occupying an important and intermediate position between the ferns and the cycads—a fact which serves to bring into conspicuous relief the important nature of the recent developments of paleobotanical science. The work is valuable and suggestive, and will find a ready welcome on the part of botanists.

D. P. P.

Notes.—The material dealt with by David White (*Nineteenth Ann. Rept. U. S. Geol. Surv.*, Pt. III) in his report on the "Fossil Plants from the McAlister Coal Field, Indian Territory," furnishes essentially the first paleobotanical data respecting the Carboniferous of the regions southwest of Kansas, and it therefore affords the first instance relative to the vertical range and distribution of the Northern Coal Measures within the southwestern portion of the western interior basin, supplying an important basis for the correlation of

¹ Zeiller, R. *Éléments de Paléobotanique*. Paris, Carré et Naud, 1900. 8vo, 417 pp., illustrated.